

84    *THE CASTAWAYS OF  
THE FLAG*

land must lie between the fortieth and thirtieth parallels. What meridian crossed it from north to south there were no means of ascertaining, although the *Flag* must have been somewhere in the western waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Then the idea of reaching the upper plateau came up again\* Pending the recovery of the captain, was it not necessary to find out whether the boat had come ashore on a continent, an island, or a mere islet ? As the cliff was seven or eight hundred feet high it was quite possible that some other land might be visible a few miles out at sea. So Fritz and Frank and the boatswain made up their minds to climb to the top of the cliff.

Several days passed without bringing any change in the situation. Every one realised the necessity of escaping from it somehow or other, and all were seriously afraid that it might become worse. The weather remained fine. The heat was great, but there was no thunder.

On several occasions John Block and Fritz and Frank had walked round the bay from the western bastion as far as the bluff. In vain

had they looked for a gorge or less  
precipitous  
slope by which they might gain the  
plateau above,  
The wall rose sheer.  
Meantime the captain  
approached complete  
recovery. His wound was healed,  
though it was  
bandaged. The attacks of fever had  
become